

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/805,529	SHIOKAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jimmy H. Nguyen	2629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 11/6/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2,5-7,10,17,18,29,31,33,34,39-41 and 43.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>attached hereto</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Joseph W. Price on November 22, 2006.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claim 2 (renumbered as claim 1): insert -- the-- immediately before “short” line 15.

Claims 42 and 44-46: Cancel these claims.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the claimed invention is directed to a gas discharge panel display apparatus and a driving method for displaying an image in a discharge sustain period in a gas discharge panel. Independent claim 2 identifies the uniquely distinct features, “said potential difference ... the sustain pulse” recited in last 8 lines. Independent claim 7 identifies the uniquely distinct features, “said potential difference ... the sustain pulse” recited in last 7 lines. Independent claim 17 identifies the uniquely distinct features, “an absolute value of a voltage ... no more than 100 ns” recited in last 10 lines. Independent claim 18 identifies the uniquely distinct features, “an absolute value of a voltage ... no more than 100 ns” recited in last 7 lines. Independent claim 29 identifies the uniquely distinct features, “said potential difference ... the sustain pulse” recited in last 7 lines. Independent claim

Art Unit: 2629

31 identifies the uniquely distinct features, "said potential difference ... the sustain pulse" recited in last 8 lines. Independent claim 33 identifies the uniquely distinct features, "wherein the discharge sustain step ... 100 ns" recited in last 7 lines. Independent claim 34 identifies the uniquely distinct features, "wherein said potential difference ... the sustain pulse" recited in last 7 lines. Independent claim 41 identifies the uniquely distinct features, "wherein said potential difference ... the sustain pulse" recited in last 7 lines. The closest prior arts, Mikoshiba et al. (US 6,456,265 B1) and Makino (US 6,426,732 B1) as discussed in the Office Actions dated 11/01/2005 and 09/18/2006, either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious. Also, see the Applicants' argument in the Amendment filed on 02/03/2006.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jimmy H. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-7675. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached at 571-272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

Art Unit: 2629

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JHN
November 22, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JHN' followed by a stylized flourish.

Jimmy H. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Technology Division: 2629